

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

Petition of Vermont Gas Systems, Inc., for a)
certificate of public good, pursuant to 30 V.S.A.)
§ 248 , authorizing the construction of the)
“Addison Natural Gas Project” consisting of)
approximately 43 miles of new natural gas) Docket No. 7970 (on remand)
transmission pipeline in Chittenden and)
Addison Counties, approximately 5 miles of)
new distribution mainlines in Addison County,)
together with three new gate stations in
Williston, New Haven and Middlebury,
Vermont

VPIRG MOTION TO INTERVENE

The Vermont Public Interest Research Group (VPIRG), by and through the Law Office of James A. Dumont, Esq., PC, hereby moves to intervene as of right, or, alternatively, by permission, under Board Rules 2.209(A) and (B), in this matter.

VPIRG has been actively participating in Docket 8180. The Board’s Orders dated September 4, 2014 and September 12, 2014 in Docket 7970 and dated September 19, 2014 in Docket 8180 make it necessary for VPIRG now to participate in the remand hearing in Docket 7970 in order to protect its interests, and VPIRG believes it can assist the Board in the remand process as well.

MEMORANDUM

VPIRG is a nonprofit public interest organization with a mission of promoting and protecting the Vermont’s environment and, in particular, promoting renewable energy resources and other alternatives to nuclear power. VPIRG has over 11,000 members in Vermont. Over 990 of those members reside in Addison County.

On their behalf, VPIRG has worked to reduce our State’s reliance on unsustainable energy sources in favor of increased efficiency and the development of renewable alternatives such as wind and solar power. VPIRG has participated as an intervenor in dockets of this Board such as Green Mountain

Power's Lowell Wind Project (Docket 7628), Entergy Vermont Yankee's application to operate after March 2012 (Dockets 7440 and 7862) and Phase 2 of the Addison-Rutland Natural Gas Project (Docket 8180). VPIRG has three regular staff and approximately 50 seasonal staff who regularly work on energy issues in the field. Promotion of renewable sources of energy, and protection of its members against the environmental, economic and resource-commitment effects of continued operation of fossil fuels and nuclear fuel, have been among VPIRG's highest priorities for many years.

VPIRG has expended substantial resources in opposing "fracking." It was the leader in the movement that led the Vermont legislature to ban fracking in Vermont. VPIRG opposed fracking, in Vermont, on behalf of its members because of the contributions of fracking to greenhouse gas emissions and because of the devastation fracking imposes on air and water quality. VPIRG, on behalf of its members, opposes Phases 1 and 2 of the VGS project because it will use fracked gas, and it will continue Vermont's unsustainable reliance on fossil fuels for decades to come. Some of VPIRG's members also will be directly harmed by the proposed pipeline, because they live or commute near its proposed path, and they use Lake Champlain.

VPIRG meets the standards of Rule 2.109(A)(3), governing intervention as of right. First, it has articulated a "substantial interest" which may be affected by the outcome of these proceedings. Second, the proceedings afford "the exclusive means" by which VPIRG can protect that interest. Third, VPIRG's interest will not be "adequately represented by existing parties" with the possible exception of Ms. Lyons, who shares VPIRG's interests but lacks VPIRG's history. VPIRG's purposes differ from those of the Department and the other intervenors. VPIRG has a unique history and commitment to halting the development and use of fracked gas.

VPIRG also meets the standards of 2.109(B), on intervention by permission. VPIRG meets the primary criterion because VPIRG and its members have a substantial interest that may be affected by

these petitions. In addition, there is not another party or organization that can or will represent VPIRG's unique views, there is no other means to protect the interests of VPIRG members, and VPIRG will work diligently to avoid delaying the proceeding.

Finally, VPIRG states that its intervention would not cause any change in the schedule or process set forth in the Board's order dated September 12, 2014.

Conclusion

VPIRG should be allowed to intervene as of right under Board Rule 2.209(A). In the alternative, VPIRG should be allowed to intervene by permission under subsection (B).

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The Vermont Public Interest Research Group
By:

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